**Attendance**

 3321.041, 3321.13, 3321.19, 3321.191

The educational program offered by Lighthouse Community School is predicated upon the presence of the student and requires continuity of instruction and classroom participation. Attendance shall be required of all students enrolled in the schools during the days and hours that the school is in session.

In accordance with the Ohio statute, the School Administrator shall require from the parent guardian or person in charge of each student of compulsory school age or from an adult student who has been absent from school or from class for any reason, a signed statement of the cause for such absence. The School shall also accept a voicemail or telephone call from the parent stating the cause of such absence and shall record such statement in a log maintained at each school. The Lighthouse Community School reserves the right to verify such statements and to investigate the cause of each single absence or prolonged absence.

Repeated infractions of Lighthouse Community School policy on attendance may result in truancy charges being filed. Students who miss one hundred and five (105) consecutive instructional hours without a legitimate excuse will be automatically withdrawn.

The Lighthouse Community School considers the following factors to be reasonable excuses for time missed at school:

A. Personal illness or illness in the family necessitating the presence of the child: A pattern of absences in excess of five (5) consecutive days shall require a written physician’s statement verifying the illness and the number of days the child was required to be absent. (Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 3301-69-02). ~~(a written physician’s statement verifying the illness may be required)~~

~~B. illness in the family (the absence under this condition shall not apply to children under fourteen (14) years of age)~~

B. Quarantine of the home: Such absence is limited to the length of the quarantine as determined by the proper health officials (OAC 3301-69-2).

C. Death in the family: Such absence is limited to a period of three days unless reasonable cause may be shown for a longer absence (OAC 3301-69-2).

D. The Superintendent may excuse a student over fourteen (14) years of age from attendance at school for a future limited period for the purpose of performing essential work directly or exclusively for his/her parents or guardians. Such excuse shall be limited to five (5) days and can be renewed for five (5) additional days. At no point may such excuse permit a student to be absent from school for more than ten (10) consecutive days. (ORC 3321.04).
~~necessary work at home due to absence or incapacity of parent(s)/guardian(s)~~

E. Observation or celebration of a bona fide religious holiday

F. Absence during the school day for medical or dental appointments: Such absence may require a written note from the medical or dental professional upon return to school. (OAC 3301-69-2).

H. Such good cause as may be acceptable to the School Administrator

I. Absences related to a student visiting with his or her parent related to military leave or deployment

J. College visits

K. The Superintendent may excuse a child from attendance for any part of the remainder of the current school year if the child’s bodily or mental condition does not permit attendance at school or a special education program during such period; this fact is certified in writing by a licensed physician or, in the case of a mental condition, by a licensed physician, a licensed psychologist or a certificated school psychologist; and provision is made for appropriate instruction of the child. (ORC 3321.04).

L. For students receiving instruction at home by a qualified teacher, a file shall be maintained in the Superintendent’s Office. Documentation shall state how the inability of the child to attend school or a special education program or the qualifications of the person instructing the child at home were determined. (ORC 3321.04)

Attendance need not always be within the school facilities, but a student will be considered to be in attendance if present at any place where school is in session by authority of the Lighthouse Community School.

The Lighthouse Community School shall consider each student assigned to a program of other guided learning experiences to be in regular attendance for the program provided that s/he reports to such staff member s/he is assigned for guidance at the place in which s/he is conducting study, and regularly demonstrates progress toward the objectives of the course of study.

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A student will be considered habitually truant if the student is absent without a legitimate excuse for 30 or more consecutive hours, 42 or more hours in one month, 72 or more hours in one school year.

If the student is absent without a legitimate excuse for seven (7) or more consecutive school days, for ten (10) or more school days in one (1) month, or for fifteen (15) or more school days in one (1) year they could be adjudicated a delinquent child in accordance with H.B 410.